



M E M O R A N D U M

Date: December 12, 2005

To: RON JOSEPH

From: DAVID F. THORMAN, A.I.A.
State Architect
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Subject: **SCHOOLS WORKGROUP'S IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Executive Order S-20-04 (EO) states that the Division of the State Architect should adopt technical resources and guidelines by December 31, 2005 that will "enable and encourage schools built with state funds to be resource and energy efficient." A Schools Workgroup was assembled to select high performance guidelines.

The Schools Workgroup is comprised of members from the following state institutions:

- The Division of the State Architect (DSA)
- Office of Public School Construction (OPSC)
- California Energy Commission (CEC)
- California Department of Education (CDE)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)
- Office of the Secretary of Education (OSE)
- Department of Health Services (DHS)

On October 18, 2005, they forwarded a recommendation to select the Collaborative for High Performance Schools' (CHPS) Best Practices Manual as the guidelines that would best meet the EO's requirements. Now that the workgroup has completed the task of selecting guidelines, it can turn its collective attention to the second part of its mission, which is "to enable and encourage schools built with state funds to be resource and energy efficient." The Schools Workgroup has discussed the options available to accomplish this mission and has agreed on the following alternatives:

Email distribution and posting information on the DSA website

DSA plans to send a notice by email in February 2006 to all the stakeholders on its distribution list to announce the selection of the CHPS Best Practice Manual and to invite them to visit the website. The Division of the State Architect's website at www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov lists the services DSA provides and offers valuable information on sustainable building design. DSA plans to post the following information on its website in January 2006:

- The Green Building Initiative
- The Division of the State Architect's recent endorsement of the CHPS Best Practices Manual
- A website link to the CHPS website at www.chps.net
- Factual information on the energy savings by using CHPS design standards

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Outreach and Training

CHPS currently provides training on its guidelines and design standards. Attached is a Criteria Overview that lists the categories that the guidelines address. These subjects form the foundation for the training sessions. Most of the attendees at the CHPS training sessions are architectural and engineering professionals, so there is a need to reach out to school district staff and school board members. This outreach occurs at the joint workshops DSA regularly conducts with the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), the Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH), and the California School Board Association (CSBA) that emphasize the importance of high performance schools. School districts have had a positive response to these workshops.

DSA is in the process of creating a DSA Academy that will initially provide training for DSA staff and eventually provide valuable information to school districts and the design professionals about the DSA plan review process. With the recent endorsement of the CHPS Best Practices Manual, the DSA Academy web page will have a link to the CHPS website for information and registration for CHPS training classes.

DSA Academy was formed September 2005.
Training classes for DSA staff begins spring of 2006.
CHPS classes are ongoing since 2003.

Preliminary Design Assistance

DSA is developing a Collaborative Process that features preliminary design assistance on a project by project basis for new construction, modernizations and relocatables. The preliminary design review begins the Collaborative Process by allowing dialogue between all the design professionals and school district facility planners involved on a specific project. This process will reduce the impact of plan review on the construction documents and construction phases. The Collaborative Process would contain a review of the CHPS Best Practices Manual Criteria Overview to encourage the design team to integrate high performance measures early in the design process.

The Collaborative Process was introduced to the Community College planners in October of 2005.

The Collaborative Process will be introduced to kindergarten to twelfth grades (K-12) school planners in the fall of 2006.

Additional Plan Review for Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) Plans

The current plan review at the Division of the State Architect includes structural code compliance, fire, life and safety code compliance, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance. The review of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing plans is limited to only those issues that are associated with these three codes' concerns. An energy plan review occurs when a project is applying for Proposition 47 funds that increase the grant allowance if a new construction project's energy efficiency is 15% higher than Title 24 standards; modernization projects must exceed Title 24 by 10%. In the future, DSA plans to review the MEP plans for all projects, which will allow for a higher quality of oversight, particularly in the field of energy efficiency.

Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing plan review will be initiated in the year 2007.

Tours of schools designed to CHPS standards

The Schools Workgroup proposes to conduct biannual tours sponsored by DSA and funded by Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH). The tours would allow design

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professionals and school districts to see first hand the effects of energy and resource efficiency in schools. Media coverage would be beneficial because it would broadcast to the public the importance of green buildings. Educating the public about how high performance schools save energy dollars and provide healthy environments for students and teachers will increase public support for the CHPS guidelines.

The first tour to be planned will be in the summer of 2006.

Conclusion

Successful implementation of these five strategies will fulfill the EO's directive to enable and encourage school districts to design and build schools that are resource and energy efficient. Per the CHPS records, there is currently in excess of 88 school projects using the CHPS guidelines. Other schools in various phases of design and construction are likely to be using the CHPS manual but, because they have not registered a scorecard with CHPS, their number is unknown. In addition to the projects registered with CHPS, 82 school projects for new construction and 42 school modernizations have submitted plans to the Office of Public School Construction that exceed Title-24 energy efficiency requirements. After DSA and the other state agencies that are engaged in school construction deploy these strategies to promote the guidelines, the number of high performance projects will increase and the number of students and teachers who will experience the benefits of energy and resource efficient school facilities will increase accordingly.